

Remarks

Claims 103-130 are now pending in the application, with Claims 103, 108, 114 and 122 being independent. Claims 23-55 and 59-102 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Response to Election of Species Requirement

Applicants respectfully traverse the election of species requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed September 30, 2003.

A careful review of the specification reveals that the various alleged species are closely related and do not require separate fields of search. Accordingly, neither Applicants nor the Patent and Trademark Office should be put to the trouble and expense entailed in multiple filing and prosecution. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the public at large should not be required to obtain and study several patent documents in order to have available all of the issued patent claims covering the invention.

Nevertheless, in order to comply with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.143, Applicants provisionally elect the species on which Claims 103-130 read. It is respectfully submitted, however, that Claims 103-130 do not read most accurately on any of the species noted by the Examiner. Rather, these claims read on Embodiments 6-8 discussed in the original specification at page 53, line 3 through page 76, line 9. These embodiments are described with respect to Figs. 18-30.

Favorable consideration is requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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